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NEWS RELEASE

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Embargo until: Immediate release – Wednesday, September 21st, 2005

Education Commissioner Announces Hiring of New Director of Teacher Certification

PROVIDENCE – Education Commissioner Peter McWalters has announced that Paulajo Gaines has been hired as the new Director of the Office of Teacher Certification at the R.I. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE).

In her new position, Ms. Gaines will be responsible for leading and managing the statewide system for the approval of education-preparation programs at Rhode Island institutions of higher education, for credentialing all elementary- and secondary-school educators in the state, and for the recertification of Rhode Island educators through the new I-Plan (Individual Professional Plan) process. She will also help districts design and implement programs for teacher recruitment and for professional development of educators.

Ms. Gaines has worked for the past two years as the Facilitator for Early Childhood Education in the Providence Public Schools, where she developed transition programs for preschoolers, reviewed and evaluated early-childhood education programs, and designed professional-development programs for the early-care and education community and elementary-school educators. She was previously a teacher in Newport and the Early Childhood Coordinator for the Newport Public Schools.

A graduate of Bridgewater State College, Ms. Gaines holds a master of science in education from the University of New England. She is studying for a doctorate in education through the University of Rhode Island-Rhode Island College Ph.D. program. Ms. Gaines is a National Board Certified Teacher in the area of early childhood. She holds professional certification in early-childhood education and in the administration of curriculum and instruction.

Ms. Gaines held a joint appointment as a lecturer in the School of Education and the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Rhode Island, where in addition to her teaching duties she served as co-chair for the Early Childhood Education Team during the state and federal re-accreditation process for the teacher-preparation programs. She rose to the rank of assistant professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies. She began work at RIDE on Monday (September 19th). The previous Director of Teacher Certification, Doris Anselmo, retired in July.

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